



# The New York State Grange



## Newsletter

January, 2012

### State Master

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I would like to take the opportunity to wish all a very Happy New Year. I suspect that many of the resolutions made have already been either forgotten or broken by this time, thus leaving only those resolving not to make New Year's resolutions remaining at 100%. An article on the subject stated that 52% of the resolution makers felt that their goal was reasonable, with only 12% actually achieving the desired end. Perhaps during the month of January it would be good for the various Granges across our State to consider some corporate resolutions for the year in relation to such things as new avenues of service, improving and/or expanding our community image, taking an honest inventory of strengths and weaknesses with an eye to deal with the problem areas, and of course membership. Our history tells us that in the very early days

of Kelley's organizational work his reporting back to Washington resulted in an extraordinary Session of the National Grange being called, during which the Founders remaining in Washington joined hands around the alter and pledged their support to Kelley's efforts. Have you determined where I'm going with this? The importance of a resolution in relation to the direction of the Grange, and the importance of each persons participation in the process is brought much more forcefully to the mind and heart by a ceremony such as this than by a mere impersonal discussion and vote. The New Year's resolutions that are very personal as well as reasonable stand a far better chance of being realized than the others. As Grangers, each of us has a personal stake in the direction of our local Grange. Not only did we commit to it with the words of our obligation, but by remaining on the membership rolls we have put feet under those words, in many cases for decades.

Dedication and rededication ceremonies take many

forms, and unfortunately many times the reason for it is completely lost in the pageantry of the event itself. Just seal your resolution with an alter circle, hands clasped, no prepared script, no music, with whatever words that are appropriate. I'm thinking that the results will eclipse the 12% success rate.

Should your Grange wish some outside help in developing a new direction or revitalization we stand ready to help. We have increased our Special Deputy force from three to six; our Membership/Leadership team is prepared with a variety of approaches to assist with Grange growth as opposed to a "one size fits all" program, and our elected State Officers are available to work with you. The starting point for this process is asking. We encourage you to do so.

#### **Submissions for Empire State Granger**

We are very interested in publishing positive articles about Granges, please submit an article. Include original pictures. Typewritten or electronic submissions are preferred. Send to: Bruce Croucher, 2514 County Road 25, Clifton Springs, NY 14432 or E-Mail to [croubr@fltg.net](mailto:croubr@fltg.net)

# Junior Grange News

Gail Chamberlain 518-499-1028

## Juniors get National Honors

I have just received the Junior crafts, art and writing entries back from the National Session held recently in Oklahoma. I am so excited to announce the following awards! In the creative art drawing a picture of making a difference in your community, Tatum Height, age 8 from Cayuga Lake JG in Cayuga Co. received First place/Best of Show, Congratulations Tatum! Ruthie Jackson, age 7-8 also from Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co. received 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

In Creative Writing "How I Make A Difference In My Community", Maria Staehr age 12 from Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co. received Honorable Mention.

Scrapbook page age 8 Jacob Roulo Almond JG, Allegany Co. received third place.

All the other entries sent to National received participant ribbons. Great job Juniors!

## NYS Grange Session Junior Craft Winners

Many crafts submitted by Junior Grange members across NYS were judged at State Grange Session in October. Remember to follow directions especially size. More rosette ribbons could have been awarded. I am proud to list the following winners

### **Homemade Valentine age 5-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Molly Yorkey, Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cecelia Eklum Chautauqua Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Emily Cody Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.

### **Age 9-11**

1<sup>st</sup> Chole Pilc, Curriers JG, Wyoming Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Aaliyah Williams, Lewis Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Hannah Yorkey Cayuga Lake JG Cayuga Co.

### **Age12-14**

1<sup>st</sup> Daniel McCoy Bethlehem JG, Albany Co.

2<sup>nd</sup> Holly Williams, Lewis Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Heather Goettel Pleasant Valley JG Dutchess Co.

### **Button Creation**

#### **age 5-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Emma Williams, Lewis Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Haley Yorkey Cayuga Lake JG Cayuga Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Morgan Buley Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.

#### **Age 9-11**

1<sup>st</sup> Laurel Douglas Whitehall JG, Washington Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Aaliyah Williams, Lewis Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tyler Niet Pleasant Valley JG Dutchess Co.

#### **Age 12-14**

1<sup>st</sup> Veronica Ganzhi Pleasant Valley JG Dutchess Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Holly Williams, Lewis Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Taryn Brundige, Washington Co.

### **Weaving**

#### **age 5-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Abigail Lane Whitehall JG, Washington Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Molly Yorkey Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co.

#### **Age9-11**

1<sup>st</sup> Hannah Yorkey /Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga CO.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Laurel Douglas Whitehall JG, Washington Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Shawn Castano Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess CO.

#### **Age 12-14**

1<sup>st</sup> Holly Williams, Lewis Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Veronica Ganzhi Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tessa Taft Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co.

### **Sandpaper Transfer**

#### **age 5-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Emma Williams, Lewis Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Zoe Hoffman Ripley JG, Chautauqua Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tatum Haight Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co.

#### **Age 9-11**

1<sup>st</sup> Alina Auben Ravena JG, Albany Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tyler Niet Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Aaliyah Williams, Lewis Co.

#### **Age 12-14**

1<sup>st</sup> Heather Goettel Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Holly Williams, Lewis Co.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Shannon Rusa Ravena JG, Albany Co.

### **Potato Rolls**

#### **age 5-8**

1<sup>st</sup> Lindsey Douglas Whitehall JG, Washington Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Cecilia Lopez Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.

#### **Age 9-11**

1<sup>st</sup> Tyler Niet Pleasant Valley JG, Dutchess Co.

#### **Age12-14**

1<sup>st</sup> Mallory Keough Whitehall JG, Washington Co.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tessa Taft Cayuga Lake JG, Cayuga Co.

## Family Activities

Brenda Noble 585-768-6632

I hope everyone is working hard to get things ready for the Craft and Handiwork Contest! There are 2 categories for woodworking. Also the quilt category is for a full size. In Needlework, we will have plastic canvas this year and next year will be latch hook.

We will also take any items that go to the Big E and have one item sent for each category. This past year we had one for each category and New York had the most awards of any state. The categories are: Afghans; Doilies - crocheted or tatted; Plastic Canvas; Counted Cross-Stitch; 3-piece Baby set; Adult Garment; Latch Hook; Quilted Wall Hanging; Stuffed Toy. I thank everyone for all of their hard work.

## **Chaplain's Corner**

Martha Woolley, 716-965-4292

Congratulations to Bruce Croucher, newly-elected High Priest of Demeter! We are grateful to have a New York person (in that my understanding is that even though the first High Priest was from New York, there was not a NYS Grange (established at that time). Congratulations to Steve Coye as the new State Grange Master and Roger Halbert as the new State Grange Secretary.

Congratulations to the longevity-award recipients in Erie Co. Three Granges that I had the privilege of presenting this fall, as well as all those who have served the Grange faithfully in so many ways over the years. Welcome to the newer members and best wishes for interesting, productive experiences as you share your talents with everyone in many ways.

As we read in the Book of Esther, her Uncle Mordicai commented, "Perhaps you were born for such a time as this." We never know until the various opportunities and experiences come about "Why are we here?" Life is an adventure of discovery as we walk and talk with our Lord. Share your faith with others. There are many who have not heard the good news of God's love and faithfulness to be with you in all circumstances.

es. Esther helped to save her people from destruction. More folks need to know God and be aware of basic needs for physical and spiritual food and the processes necessary to accomplish both. Have a blessed year ahead. I was delighted to share dictionaries with 3rd graders at Forestville Elementary School in December. They were excited to receive them as well as learning about Grange.

## **Youth**

Julia Masti  
607-776-3625  
mastifarm@aol.com

Youth Cuba Winter Weekend  
2012

\$25.00 per person, make  
checks payable to Cuba  
Grange

January 13-15

### **Friday**

7-8 welcome assignment to  
Resolution Committees &  
hand out resolutions

8-10 games

10 Vespers

11 lights out

### **Saturday**

8-9 Breakfast

9-12 Resolution workshop we  
will read over resolutions  
from state Grange break into  
committees, discuss resolutions  
& decide on recommendations

12-1 Lunch

1-3 Underwood Manor assisted  
living community service

singing BINGO-bring small  
gifts

3-3:30 first documented in

1627 sighting of oil by a

white man in the New World

3:30-5 Cuba Cheese Museum

5:30-6:30 Dinner

7-10 Square Dancing

10-11 Games

11 Vespers

12 Lights Out

### **Sunday**

8-9 Breakfast

9-10:30 Resolutions vote on  
resolutions compare results to

state results present resolutions

to entire group for them

to vote, then compare to ac-

tion taken at state session

11 Church Sandra

## **State Lecturer**

Sharon Croucher 315-462-3067

Happy New Year! The rush of the Fall Grange Activities and the Holidays are behind us. We are well into the new Grange year. I hope you have taken the time to read the Lecturer's portion of the new handbook. There are important changes to note such as the change in categories for the photography contest. The handbook information is perhaps more general than in the past. My goal is that Lecturers will have the freedom to use their own imaginations and skills to carry out the theme: "Building Better Communities through Education, Enrichment and Enthusiasm". I'm confident that you will rise to the chal-

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lenge!

There has been an important date change from the National Grange. The 2012 date for “Gathering Day” is April 21<sup>st</sup>. The July date conflicted with too many fairs etc. The new date will make it part of Grange Month. The National Lecturer told me that he received the most participation from New York! I hope we have even more participation this year.

I will be sending a mailing to all lecturers in early February. It will contain important information and report forms. If you don’t receive it by mid February, please let me know.

I wish you and yours a

happy and healthy 2012.  
Let’s make it a productive  
Grange year.

## Northeast Leaders' Conference

State Grange Masters and department directors are attending the Northeast Leaders’ Conference in Hartford, Connecticut. This conference includes the New England States and New York State. The conference is held annually and includes presentations by National Grange officers and staff members. There are also meetings of directors from each of the

states where they discuss activities in their individual states. The State Grange Lecturers also plan the Northeast Lecturers Conference. For those directly involved in the “Big E” plans are made for this regional Fair.

This year there are presentations being made by: Beth Merrill, 2013 National Convention Coordinator, Michael Martin, National Grange Leadership/ Membership Director, Ed Luttrell, National Grange President. There are also presentations by Carmen Brickner Leadership Coach and Mark Denard, Life Coach.